

Response
Application No. 10/648,283
Attorney Docket No. 031080

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 are pending in the present application, of which claims 16 and 17 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 18 have been amended, claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled, and new claim 23 has been added. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 18, 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4-6 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features any base and intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the allowable features of claim 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. In addition, it is submitted that independent claim 5 has been amended into independent form to include all of the features of independent claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-15 and 23 are now allowable.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

claims 1, 3, 7, 10-12, 18 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kohama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,731,607);

claims 8-9, 13, 19 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohama et al. in view of Matsunaga et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003016082); and

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claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohama et al. in view of Ayasli et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,012,123).

Each rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 18 has been amended in a similar manner as independent claim 1 to include the feature regarding the control bias being supplied for cutting off all the switching transistors to one of a source and a drain of each of the switching transistors via a diode, wherein the diode has an anode to which a voltage signal is applied from outside of the switching circuit, and a cathode via which the control bias is output in accordance with the voltage signal.

It is respectfully submitted that as acknowledged by the Examiner in the bridging paragraphs between pages 5 and 6 of the outstanding Action that the applied reference of Kohama does not teach a control bias supply circuit that includes a diode having an anode to which the voltage signal is applied and a cathode via which the control bias is output to the connection node. In other words, it is submitted that Kohama fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of independent claim 18, as amended, regarding supplying a control bias for cutting off all of the switching transistors to once of a source and a drain of each of the switching transistors via diode, wherein the diode has an anode to which a voltage signal is applied from outside of the switching circuit, and a cathode via which the control bias is output in accordance with the voltage signal.

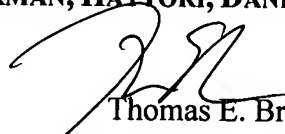
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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

TEB/nrp